

Through my position as co-chair of the House Oceans Caucus, I continue to provide leadership on ocean policy in Congress. During my tenure in Congress, I have consistently fought for funding and development of ocean activities and programs, especially as administered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In January 2009, I introduced legislation known as Oceans-21, the cornerstone of a strategy to implement the highest priority recommendations of two blue-ribbon commissions, the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. The two groups completed parallel and comprehensive surveys of the status of our oceans. Despite representing both sides of the political spectrum, these commissions came to virtually identical conclusions about the troubling state of our oceans.

These documents create a vision for the future, a vision founded on responsible stewardship of our country's largest public trust resource. And their recommendations are at the heart of Oceans-21.

Bills I have authored during the 111th Congress (2009-2010):

- [H.R. 556](#) - Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act - Aids the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's current recovery efforts for Southern Sea Otters by creating a team of sea otter-experts to review scientific proposals to study recent trends in the sea otters' population, as well as providing funding for such studies. You can read [testimony](#) I gave supporting the legislation before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife on May 5, 2009.

- [H.R. 366](#) - Ocean Research and Exploration Enhancement Act of 2009 - Creates two key ocean research programs: the National Undersea Research Program and the National Ocean Exploration Program. This bill was incorporated into the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 and signed into law on March 30, 2009.

- [H.R. 21](#) - Ocean Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act - Creates a national ocean policy that includes principles for use and management of the ocean, coastline and Great Lakes; consolidates national ocean management, promoting ecosystem-based, regional ocean governance; creates regional and national ocean advisory committees and an ocean advisor in president's cabinet. The bill also codifies the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as the chief ocean agency and establishes an Ocean and Great Lakes Conservation Trust Fund to support the legislation's

purposes and policies.

Bills I have cosponsored during the 111th Congress:

- [H.R. 2548](#) - Keep America's Waterfronts Working Act of 2009 - This legislation would preserve, protect and expand coastal access for persons engaged in water-dependent commercial activities including commercial fishing, recreational fishing, aquaculture, boatbuilding or other water-dependent coastal-related businesses.
- [H.R. 2093](#) - The Clean Coastal Environment and Public Health Act mandates the adoption of rapid testing methods that provide water quality information within hours of sampling. It forces states to issue beach advisories within 24 hours and sets new standards for public notification of water quality safety.
- [H.R. 2055](#) - Pacific Salmon Stronghold Conservation Act of 2009 - Establishes the Salmon Stronghold Partnership as a cooperative, incentive-based, public-private partnership working across political boundaries and land ownerships to identify and conserve salmon strongholds.
- [H.R. 1906](#) - California Ocean and Coastal Protection Act - Would permanently prohibit oil and gas leasing of the coast of California.
- [H.R. 1080](#) - Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2009 - Amends specified Acts related to commercial fishing and marine resources to provide for increased interagency and international cooperation, as well as for increased penalties for violations of such acts and increased enforcement and inspection authorities relating to driftnet fishing, illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing, and bycatch of a protected living marine resource.
- [H.R. 860](#) - Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009 - Amends the Coral Reef Conservation Act to extend the award of remaining coral reef conservation program grant funds to appropriate projects, including monitoring and assessment, research, pollution reduction, education, and technical support. Also authorizes actions to minimize injury to a coral reef or loss of an ecosystem function.
- [H.R. 509](#) - Marine Turtle Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2009 - Reauthorizes the Marine Turtle Conservation Act through 2014.
- [H.R. 368](#) - Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Act - Amends the Coastal Zone Management Act to improve protections to important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values.
- [H.R. 367](#) - Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 - Establishes a National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System to support national defense, marine commerce, navigation safety, weather, climate, and marine forecasting and a variety of other functions.
- [H.R. 365](#) - Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act - Establishes a program to develop a comprehensive federal ocean and coastal mapping program that enhances ecosystem approaches in decision-making for conservation and management of marine

resources and habitats.

- [H.R. 81](#) - Shark Conservation Act of 2009 - Amends the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, making it a prohibited act to remove any shark fin (including the tail) at sea; have a fin aboard a fishing vessel or transfer a fin from one vessel to another.

Important actions during the 111th Congress:

- I was the lead author of a letter supporting robust funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, our country's chief ocean agency.
- I testified for more than two hours before the House Natural Resources Committee on the importance of the ocean and the pitfalls of drilling for oil on the Outer Continental Shelf.
- In March 2009 I attended the Blue Vision Summit in Washington to talk about ocean policy with a host of top experts and policymakers. While at the summit, I was proud to be presented the Blue Frontier Peter Benchley award in the Area of Policy.